



Colleagues recognised for distinguished service

Thursday 20 June, 2023

Five colleagues of Hunter New England Local Health District have been recognised for their contribution to health in their year's King's Birthday Honours List, each receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division.

John Conaghan - Social worker, John Hunter Hospital

John is a senior social worker and has worked at John Hunter Hospital for 37 years.

While John provides social work support to all people across the spectrum he specialises in and has been recognised for his support for people with Huntington's Disease and their families who he has been working with since 1985.

In addition, John is a volunteer with Huntington's New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory.

John is recognised for service to people with Huntington's Disease.

Elizabeth Grist - Executive Director Clinical Services, Nursing and Midwifery

Having started her career with us as a registered nurse at James Fletcher in 1995, Elizabeth went on to study midwifery before moving into the mental health service for older people, where she rose through the ranks to service director in 2013.

Elizabeth is a passionate supporter of the nurses and midwives who are at the core and indeed the front line of our health services and has dedicated a lot of time in support of developing new graduates as they begin their careers.

In addition, Elizabeth is the District's Executive Director Clinical Services, Nursing and Midwifery, a role she has had since 2015, and is also our Health Service Functional Area Co-ordinator for disaster management.

Elizabeth is recognised for service to community health, nursing and midwifery.

Dr Rosemary Hackworthy - Cardiology Staff Specialist, John Hunter Hospital

Rosemary is a Cardiology Staff Specialist at John Hunter Hospital, and has also worked privately in Charlestown since 1991.

With an extensive work history throughout NSW and a contribution to cardiology that spans beyond the hospital. She has authored 39 research papers, performed as a research scholar and conjoint senior lecturer all the while being a member of a variety of clubs and associations.

Rosemary is recognised for service to medicine as a cardiologist.

Dr Diana Coote and Dr Clem Gordon - GP VMOs, Warialda, for service to medicine and the community.

Diana and Clem are a dynamic wife and husband duo who, in addition to operating the Warialda Family Practice, support our District by providing GP VMO services to the local Warialda Multipurpose Service.

They both have impressive resumes detailing many contributions to the local Warialda community, covering multiple sporting clubs, the local council and in the case of Dr Coote, membership on the Warialda MPS advisory committee.

Diana and Clem have a history of working well together and have received joint recognition several times before this year including as Warialda Citizen of the Year in 2010 and Rural Doctor of the Year in 2007.

Congratulations to our esteemed colleagues and thank you for the contributions you continue to make to our public health system.